Subsidy to coconut growing farmers

164. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand from State Government of Kerala to give subsidy on the coconut oil to help the farmers;

(b) the steps which have so far been taken by Government on this demand; and

(c) whether the Central Government intends to give subsidy on coconut oil to help the coconut farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by Department of Food & Public Distribution, the subsidy on edible oils in the Scheme implemented by the Central Government for distribution through State/Union Territories is confined to imported oil. The purpose of the Scheme is primarily to augment domestic availability through imports and thereby to keep domestic prices of edible oils under control. There is no provision to give subsidy to indigenous oils including coconut oil.

Damage to crops in Himachal Pradesh

165. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that apple, chilgoza and other cash crops like peas and zeera are being hit hard by dust, aerosols and environmental pollution wrecked by hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh due to which farmers are bearing great losses and becoming indebted;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the matter with concerned authority to give farmers compensation for their losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, the attention of the Government has been drawn to the loss of apple crop of three, farmers in VPO Radi Development Block Mehla in District Chamba hit by dust, aerosols and environmental pollution created by blasting and constructions activities in Chamera Hydro Electric Project Phase-3 in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. However, there is no report of losses to the crop of Chilgoza and other cash crops like pea, etc.